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Configuration spaces of algebraic varieties.

Fulton-MacPherson and Kriz found a model for the homotopy type in characteristic zero of configuration spaces of smooth projective complex algebraic varieties. I will describe a new model, for configuration spaces of punctured varieties. In the simplest case, when the variety is the projective line, this model reduces to the Orlik-Solomon algebra of braid arrangements. (Received February 17, 2006)